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FirstNet Issues RFIs on Technology for Nationwide Wireless Broadband Network

Washington, D.C. - As part of its extensive market research to determine the most appropriate network design approach, the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) today announced the release of 10 requests for information (RFIs). These RFIs ask for input from vendors and interested stakeholders regarding potential deployment options for two crucial portions of the nationwide public safety network: the radio access network (RAN) and core network.

"These RFIs will enable FirstNet to gather input from equipment manufacturers, service providers and other stakeholders on possible models and partnership and technology platforms," said Bill D'Agostino, FirstNet General Manager. "We need to hear about innovative, cost-effective solutions for delivering the coverage, capacity, connectivity, cybersecurity and resiliency that a high-speed network dedicated to public safety demands."

The FirstNet RFIs, posted on www.fedbizopps.gov, follow a device RFI issued April 15. They are a key step in the competitive procurement process that FirstNet is following for its network buildout. Equipment and service providers are encouraged to respond to one or more of the new RFIs alone or jointly with other companies. They may describe potential solution elements, complete solutions or combinations of solutions on a regional or nationwide basis. Questions from respondents are due July 22 and responses are due Aug. 30, 2013.

"Over the past few months, FirstNet has been deeply engaged in extensive outreach and consultation with all 56 states and territories and now we are reaching out and engaging with the public safety wireless supplier community through RFIs," said FirstNet Board member Craig Farrill, who also serves as acting Chief Technology Officer. "These detailed RFIs reflect the diversity of

uses and applications as well as the extensive broadband wireless needs of first responders and public safety professionals. We look forward to a wide range of innovative, highly reliable, cost effective products and services to address the mission-critical telecommunications needs of public safety."

After FirstNet receives and analyzes responses to the RFIs, it will develop and issue Requests for Proposal (RFPs). All RFI responses, as well as information gathered from FirstNet's ongoing state consultation process including its series of regional workshops and the results of additional state meetings planned for this fall, will be used to inform the development of the FirstNet nationwide deployment plan. This plan will be presented to the states for their review and decisions.

Read the full article at: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press-release/2013/firstnet-issues-rfis-technology-nationwide-wireless-broadband-network>